

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 09502 01 OF 02 091746Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DHA-02 PM-03
SP-02 L-01 H-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 SY-02 /044 W
-----091806Z 004645 /53
R 091731Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4857
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 09502

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE KGB PROVOCATION OF GEORGIAN REFUSENIKS

1. ON JUNE 9, MMES BECHER AND GOLDWATER OF THE "COM-
MITTEE OF 35'S" (BRITISH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION WHICH
ACTIVELY SUOPORTS JEWISH EMIGRATION MOVEMENT IN USSR)
CALLED ON EMBOFF TO DISCUSS LETTER THEY HAD JUST
RECEIVED FROM GEORGIAN REFUSENIKS GRIGORIY AND ISAI
GOLDSTEIN. DATED TBILISI, MAY 25-26, LETTER HAD BEEN
BROUGHT OUT BY "35'S" MEMBER WHO HAD BEEN IN USSR AS
TOURIST.

2. ACCORDING TO LETTER, GRIGORIV GOLDSTEIN WAS
VISITED IN TBILISI ON MAY 21, 1977, BY A MAN WHO
IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS WILLIAM FAWCETT, A CANADIAN
BUSINESSMAN WHO HAD LIVED IN TOKYO SINCE 1958 AND WHO
HAD EXTENSIVE BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH THE USSR. FAWCETT
SAID HE HAD HEARD OF GRIGORIY GOLDSTEIN ON RADIO LIBERTY
IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARRESTS OF GEORGIAN DISSIDENTS
ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA AND MERAB KOSTAVA AND HAD OBTAINED
GOLDSTEIN'S ADDRESS FROM THE TBILISI ADDRESS BUREAU.
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PAGE 02 LONDON 09502 01 OF 02 091746Z

FAWCETT ASKED GOLDSTEIN TO TAKE HIM TO THE HOME OF
GAMSAKHURDIA'S WIFE, MANANA, AND TO TRANSLATE FROM
ENGLISH INTO RUSSIAN FOR HIM.

3. AT MANANA'S HOME, FAWCETT SAID HE KNEW MANANA HAD
RECENTLY MET WITH THREE WESTERN CORRESOONDENTS AND
ADVISED HER NOT TO MAKE ANY STATEMENTS TO SUCH CORRES-

PONDENTS, AS SHE COULD THEREBY HARM HER HUSBAND. HE ALSO ASKED MANANA FOR ANY UNPUBLISHED WORKS OF HER HUSBAND OR COPIES OF "GEORGIAN HERALD" ("VESTNIK GRUZII") WHICH FAWCETT COULD TAKE OUT WITH HIM TO THE WEST. FAWCETT ALSO SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING IN THE WEST AN AID FUND FOR MANANA.

4. THE NEXT DAY, FAWCETT, GRIGORY GOLDSTEIN, VIKTOR RTSKHILADZE, AND NANANA MET AGAIN AT MMANANA'S HOME. INTER ALIA, FAWCETT CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN A WESTERN BANK ACCOUNT OF ZVIAD'S FATHER WHICH COULD BE PUT AT NANANA'S DISPOSAL, THAT HE COULD OASS ANV SORT OF PACKAGE TO ZVIAD IN PRISON, THAT MERAB KOSTAVA WAS "SINGING" TO HIS INVESTIGATORS AND WOULD SOON BE RELEASED, THAT RTSKHILADZE WOULD SOON BE ARRESTED BUT COULD HAVE A COMFORTABLE LIFE IN THE WEST IF HE WOULD LEAVE THE USSR, AND THAT GOLDSTEIN WOULD SOON RECEIVE PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

5. FAWCETT THEN ASKED TO BE LEFT ALONE WITH MANANA, SAYING THAT HE COULD SPEAK A LITTLE POLISH. AFTER HALF AN HOUR, MANANA SUMMONED VIKTOR RTSKHILADZE AND ASKED HIM IMMEDIATELY TO NOTIFY THE KGB INVESTIGATOR HANDLING ZVIAD'S CASE THAT FAWCETT, WHO SPOKE FLUENT RUSSIAN, HAD SUGGESTED SHE COOPERATE WITH THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE, WARNING HER, "THE GOLDSTEIN BROTHERS WILL BETRAY YOU."

6. ON MAY 23, RTSKHILADZE AND GOLDSTEIN WERE CALLED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 09502 01 OF 02 091746Z

SEOARATELY TO THE KGB, WHERE THEY WERE INTERVIEWED BY SENIOR INVESTIGATOR KHAZALIYA ON THEIR CONTACTS WITH FAWCETT. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH GOLDSTEIN, KHAZALIYA EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A HOUSEWIFE BUT AVOIDED REPLYING TO GOLDSTEIN'S COMMENT THAT FAWCETT THEREFORE WOULD SEEM TO BE A PROVOCATEUR. SPEAKING TO RTSKHILADZE, KHAZALIVA SAID THAT THE KGB KNEW ABOUT FAWCETT AND WOULD TAKE STEPS TO STOP HIS ACTIVITY AND ADDED, "THE GOLDSTEIN BROTHERS WILL BE MADE TO STOP PLAYING THEIR GAME OF HAVING CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS."

7. THE LETTER CONCLUDES BY OBSERVING THAT ONE CANNOT CONCLUSIVELY PROVE THAT FAWCETT WAS EITHER A CIA AGENT OR A KGB PROVOCATEUR AND BY URGING THAT AN INQUIRY BE MADE IN THE WEST AND IN JAPAN TO ESTABLISH THE IDENTITY OF WILLIAM FAWCETT. IF IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT FAWCETT

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09502 02 OF 02 091742Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 09502

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DOES NOT EXIST, THEN EXPLANATIONS SHOULD BE DEMANDED
FROM THE KGB.

8. THE LETTER BEARS THE TYPED SIGNATURES OF MANANA
GAMSAKHURDIA, GRIGORIY GOLDSTEIN, ISAI GOLDSTEIN,
VIKTOR RTSKHILADZE, BEGLAR BEZHUASHVILI, TEYMURAZ
DJANELIDZE, AND ELIZAVETA BIKOVA. WE ARE POUCHING
COPIES OF THE RUSSIAN ORIGINAL AND ENGLISH TRANSLATION
TO EUR/SOV (LEVITSKY) AND EMBASSY MOSCOW.

9. MMES BECHER AND GOLDWATER HAVE GIVEN COPIES OF
THE LETTER TO HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOLAR/JOURNALIST PETER
REDDAWAY, AND THE LATTER MAY PUBLISH A STORY BASED ON
THE LETTER IN THE "TIMES" OR "SUNDAY TIMES."

10. AS MMES BECHER AND GOLDWATER ARE SEEKING AN
APPOINTMENT AT THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION TO DISCUSS
THE LETTER, EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY WISH TO SHARE THIS
TELEGRAM WITH CANADIAN EMBASSY MOSCOW.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: MMES BECHER AND GOLDWATER, WHILE
RECOGNIZING THAT IT IS USG POLICY NEITHER TO CONFIRM NOR
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PAGE 02 LONDON 09502 02 OF 02 091742Z

TO DENY ACCUSATIONS OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES, WOULD WELCOME ASSURANCES THAT "WILLIAM FAWCETT" IS UNKNOWN TO USG; IF SUCH ASSURANCES WERE FORTHCOMING, THEY WOULD PASS THEM BACK TO THE GOLDSTEINS VIA A "TOURIST" TRAVELLER.

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Message Attributes

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